

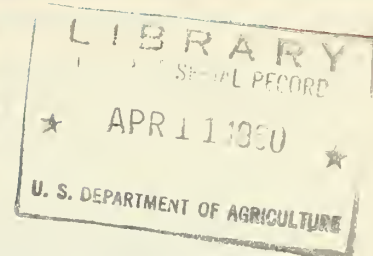
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Foreign

CROPS AND MARKETS



FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1960

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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AUSTRIA IMPORTS LESS TOBACCO IN 1959

Austrian imports of unmanufactured tobacco in the first 9 months of 1959 totaled 13.7 million pounds--down 18 percent from the 16.7 million imported during the January-September 1958 period.

Imports from the United States, at 3.2 million pounds, were about one-half those in the previous 9-month period. Imports from Greece, Turkey, India, Indonesia, and the Dominican Republic also were down. But these decreased purchases were offset to some extent by much larger takings of leaf from Spain, the Philippines, Brazil, and Poland.

BRAZIL'S 9-MONTH TOBACCO EXPORTS DOWN A LITTLE

Brazil's exports of leaf tobacco during January-September 1959 totaled 35.9 million pounds--down 5 percent from the 37.7 million exported in the same 9 months of 1958.

Spain continued to be the largest market for Brazilian leaf in 1959, taking 10.4 million pounds in the first 9 months of the year--equal to 29 percent of total exports. The Netherlands purchased 7.6 million pounds and West Germany 5.1 million. Substantial quantities also moved to France, Uruguay, Denmark, Algeria, and Switzerland.

TOBACCO LEAF: Brazil, exports by country of destination, January-September 1958 and 1959

Destination	January-September	
	1958	1959
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
Spain.....	13,184	10,386
Netherlands.....	8,038	7,579
Germany, West.....	6,790	5,117
France.....	1,759	3,788
Uruguay.....	820	1,609
Denmark.....	1,803	1,561
Algeria.....	1,808	1,453
Switzerland.....	668	1,362
Others.....	2,840	3,078
Total.....	37,710	35,933

COLOMBIA'S TOBACCO EXPORTS LARGER IN 1959

Colombia's exports of unmanufactured tobacco, at 13.1 million pounds in 1959, were 31 percent larger than those for 1958. West Germany, as usual, was the largest market, taking 8.2 million pounds, or 63 percent of the total. The Netherlands, with purchases of 1.8 million pounds, was the next largest market.

The average price per pound for Colombian tobacco exports last year was equivalent to 17 U. S. cents.

UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO: Colombia, exports by country of destination, 1957-59

Destination	1957	1958	1959
	<u>:1,000 pounds</u>	<u>:1,000 pounds</u>	<u>:1,000 pounds</u>
Germany, West.....	8,478	5,038	8,248
Netherlands.....	588	795	1,762
France.....	1,297	1,171	1,014
Algeria.....	1,196	767	941
Morocco.....	388	386	402
Tunisia.....	176	525	220
Belgium.....	326	195	167
Others.....	211	1,113	350
Total.....	12,660	9,990	13,104

National Tobacco Institute.

CIGARETTE OUTPUT SOARS IN SINGAPORE

Singapore's cigarette output in the first 9 months of 1959 was up more than 400 percent from the corresponding 1958 period. Nearly 2 million pounds of cigarettes were produced during January-September 1959, compared with less than $\frac{1}{2}$ million a year earlier. Singapore imported 1,336,000 pounds of unmanufactured tobacco from the United States in 1959, in contrast to only 38,000 pounds in 1958.

AUSTRALIAN BEEF SHIPMENTS TO U. S. IN MARCH

The Pioneer Surf left Australia on March 4, 1960, with 741,440 pounds of frozen beef for the United States: New York--645,120 pounds; Philadelphia--17,920; Boston--33,600; and Chicago--44,800. Destinations indicated are the location of purchasers and usually the place of arrival and sale, but in some instances the beef may be diverted to other areas for sale.

U. S. REPLACES U. S. S. R. AS LEADING BUYER OF URUGUAYAN WOOL

The Soviet Union purchased no Uruguayan wool during the first 5 months (October-February) of the 1959-60 season. In the same months of the previous season, the U. S. S. R. was the leading buyer of Uruguayan wool, taking 23,222 bales of grease wool.

The resumption of Soviet trade with Australia probably affected purchases in Uruguay. Uruguayan shipments to most other Sino-Soviet Bloc countries also declined.

Total October-February shipments of Uruguayan wool (including greasy, scoured, tops, and wastes) were 45,240 bales, compared with 99,167 bales in the same period a year earlier. The United States has been the leading buyer this season with purchases of 11,209 bales. In addition to the lack of sales to the Soviet Union, Uruguayan exports have been lowered by a reduction in supplies available for export. Also, shipments were held up as the trade awaited the end of the multiple exchange rate system.

GUATEMALA PLANS BEEF EXPORTS TO U. S.

The Guatemalan Government has established new meat inspection regulations in order to export beef to the United States. However, formal approval by the U. S. Department of Agriculture is necessary before shipments begin.

Dutch and British island dependencies in the Caribbean are also potential markets for Guatemalan beef.

One large old slaughter house at Escuintla that now supplies beef to Guatemala City may not meet the new inspection requirements for export. Another firm, however, has a long-term lease of facilities at the new, modern municipal slaughter house at Lavarreda. At this plant it will be possible to process 200 cattle for export daily. Veterinarians selected to work in the Lavarreda plant will come to the United States for instruction in inspection methods.

Guatemalan cattle numbers on farms have been increasing for several years as a result of higher returns to producers. The official census in 1959 placed the total at 1,142,000 head.

Imports of feeder and slaughter cattle, mainly from Honduras and El Salvador, amounted to 21,000 head in 1958 and 50,000 in 1959.

The wholesale price of carcass beef in Guatemala City has been averaging 21 or 22 cents per pound.

U. S. GAINS LARGER SHARE OF U. K. LARD MARKET

U. K. lard imports in January 1960 were almost double the level of a year earlier. Rising demand in the United Kingdom has been stimulated by low lard prices, and the use of lard in margarine has increased. Imports from the United States accounted for 85 percent of the total, compared with 63 percent in January 1959.

The United Kingdom has now replaced Cuba as the leading foreign market for U. S. lard. In January, U. S. shipments to the United Kingdom were the highest of any month since World War II and accounted for 67 percent of total U. S. exports during the month.

LARD: United Kingdom imports by country of origin and percentage of total, January 1959 and 1960

Origin	January 1959		January 1960	
	Quantity	Percent of total	Quantity	Percent of total
	1,000 lb.	Percent	1,000 lb.	Percent
United States.....	13,225	63.0	35,295	84.7
France.....	2,581	12.3	3,935	9.5
Belgium.....	1,641	7.8	81	0.2
Denmark.....	1,638	7.8	1,126	2.7
Netherlands.....	1,150	5.5	725	1.7
Canada.....	442	2.1	371	0.9
Sweden.....	188	0.9	22	--
Others.....	122	0.6	116	0.3
Total.....	20,987	100.0	41,671	100.0

U. S. Packers Provisions Agents' Committee.

U. S. EXPORTS OF ABBATOIR PRODUCTS TO PERU RISE SHARPLY

U. S. exports of lard and tallows and greases to Peru rose sharply in 1959 but exports of meats dropped materially. Increased sales of lard and tallow reflect the more competitive U. S. prices for these products.

Peru's imports of lard from all sources, at 34 million pounds in 1959, were about 1 percent less than a year earlier. Total imports of tallow, at 8.1 million pounds, were 32 percent below 1958. The total for meats, at 17 million pounds in 1959, was 17 percent greater than a year earlier and the largest since 1952.

Self-sufficiency in meat production is one of the main goals of the Peruvian Government. A new cabinet was formed in July and its policy has been to free the country of unnecessary restrictions on business. Meat prices were freed from control in July 1959 and government subsidies on imports were removed.

Peru imports live animals for slaughter from Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Most frozen and canned meat and lard comes from Argentina, Denmark, and the Netherlands. The United States supplies practically all of Peru's tallow. New Zealand became an import source of meat in 1959.

Peru's ad valorem import duties on most meat products were increased from 10 percent to 26 percent on April 7, 1959 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, May 11, 1959).

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS: U.S. exports to Peru,
1957-59

Commodity	1957	1958	1959 ^{1/}
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Lard.....	2,770	475	4,579
Tallows and greases:			
Inedible.....	8,877	6,878	8,750
Edible.....	2	8	441
Meats:			
Beef and veal.....	62	46	4
Pork.....	38	79	82
Sausage:			
Canned.....	37	39	2
Not canned.....	22	18	24
Other canned meat.....	67	25	5
Baby food.....	25	29	3
Variety meats.....	9	10	---
Total meats.....	260	246	120

^{1/} Preliminary.

U.S. Department of Commerce.

INDIA'S 1959-60 PEANUT CROP DOWN SHARPLY

India's 1959-60 peanut crop was 4,916,800 short tons from 15,305,000 acres, according to the final official estimates released March 10. Compared with the revised estimates for 1958-59 of 5,389,440 tons from 14,575,000 acres, production was down 9 percent despite the 5-percent increase in acreage.

The decline in 1959-60 production was mainly due to excessive rains during the growing period in the States of Bombay and Madhya Pradesh.

NORWAY REPORTS LARGE WHALE OIL SALES

Norwegian whaling companies have reportedly sold 100,000 long tons of their 1959-60 Antarctic whale oil output, 40,000 tons to Norwegian processors and 60,000 tons to outside interests. The reported price was 9.06 cents per pound.

The entire output of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom has been sold, and Japan has sold 60,000 to 70,000 tons. If the U. K. and Netherlands output reached the levels anticipated last fall, sales of whale oil from the 1959-60 Antarctic season should total around 250,000 long tons. Sales of this size account for virtually all the Antarctic output, excluding that of the Soviet Union.

CUBA SELLS 100 MILLION GALLONS OF BLACKSTRAP MOLASSES

The Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute has announced the sale of 100 million gallons of 1960 blackstrap. The announcement indicates 50 million gallons will be lifted prior to May 31 and the remaining 50 million before September 30, 1960. The indicated price is 7 cents per gallon f.o.b. Cuban port on the basis of 52 percent sugar content.

IVORY COAST COFFEE MARKETINGS LATER THIS SEASON

The 1959-60 coffee marketing season in the Ivory Coast officially opened on November 30, 1959. This was two months later than usual, due to problems arising from the 1958-59 surplus. It has been indicated that strict enforcement of the new quality regulations have slowed down marketings of the 1959-60 crop, and because of the delay, marketings will continue this season even into July if necessary.

Producer prices for the 1959-60 season were established at 105 CFA francs per kilo (19.2 cents per pound), which is a reduction of 10 francs from the 1958-59 price of 115 CFA francs per kilo (21.1 cents per pound). At the end of February 1960 the 733,000-bag surplus of 1958-59 coffee reported on hand on September 30, 1959 had been reduced to less than 100,000 bags.

WEST GERMAN FOOD AND FEED IMPORTS AT NEW HIGH

According to West German reports, 1959 imports of foods, feeds, and beverages reached an alltime high of \$2.5 billion--an increase of 14 per cent over 1958.

The largest increase (47 percent over 1958) was in livestock and meats, including poultry. This was mostly due to expanding consumption and a decline in domestic meat output. Imports of edible vegetable fats and oils, oilcakes, and oilseeds increased 18 percent; grains 11 percent; vegetables 22 percent. The value of butter imports jumped from \$5 million to \$30 million in 1959. These increases were partly due to 1959 drought.

Although the value of imports of citrus and tropical fruit declined slightly, imports of other fresh fruit and nuts showed an increase, as did hops. Despite larger shipments of coffee and wine, the import value of all beverages declined 4 percent.

The above commodities accounted for 72 percent of West Germany's total food and feed imports and made up 22 percent of the total value of all West German imports in 1959. The West German Ministry of Agriculture reports that shipments from other Common Market countries increased 24 percent, raising their share from 24 to 29 percent. Shipments from countries outside the Common Market rose 11 percent.

RECORD CORN SHIPMENT GOING TO URUGUAY

The largest single agricultural shipment ever made under Title I of Public Law 480, and the largest maritime cargo of corn in history, was scheduled to go to Uruguay in a tanker sailing from Baton Rouge, Louisiana about March 25.

The shipment consists of 39,200 metric tons of corn (about 1,543,000 bushels) valued at about \$2.1 million. The corn, furnished by U. S. suppliers, was sold for Uruguayan currency under a Public Law 480 agreement with Uruguay announced January 13, 1960.

Uruguay normally is a grain exporting country, but adverse weather the past 2 years has necessitated imports.

ITALY TO TAKE CORN FROM RUMANIA

A February 10, 1960, protocol to the Italian-Rumanian Trade Agreement signed November 25, 1960, provides that Italy is to receive 30,000 tons of corn and 15,000 tons of unspecified "secondary" cereals from Rumania during calendar 1960.

CEYLON BUYS 50,000 TONS OF AUSTRALIAN FLOUR

The Food Division of Ceylon's Ministry of Defense and External Affairs recently announced that its flour-purchasing delegation in Australia had contracted for 50,000 tons of Australian flour at a price of £24 10s. (\$54.78) per long ton, f.o.b. South and East Australian ports.

The delegation had hoped to buy 100,000 tons of flour (the amount taken in previous years), but could not effect the purchase of this amount because there was a difference of opinion regarding future market trends. It is planned to negotiate for the remaining 50,000 tons during the second half of 1960.

CANADA INTENDS LITTLE CHANGE IN GRAIN ACREAGE

Canada's intended grain acreage for 1960, recently announced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, places all wheat acreage at 23.1 million acres, about the same as in 1959. A small increase in oats would be offset by a comparable cut in barley acreage, according to present intentions. Oats is planned at 11.7 million acres, 3 percent above the actual 1959 acreage in oats.

Barley acreage is planned at 8.0 million acres, compared with 8.3 million harvested in 1959. All rye acreage, at 0.5 million acres, would be about the same as a year ago. Little change is planned for land in summerfallow; the intended 24.2 million acres is only nominally below acreage in summerfallow in 1959.

U. S. COARSE GRAIN EXPORTS RISE 11 PERCENT IN JULY-JANUARY

U. S. coarse grain exports during July-January 1959-60 totaled 7 million metric tons, compared with 6.4 million a year earlier.

Corn exports were up from 2.9 to 3.3 million tons, and sorghums from 1.5 to 1.6 million tons; exports of oats increased by 200,000 tons, or over 85 percent. In contrast, barley exports were off about 35,000 from the 1,678,600 tons exported in July-January 1958-59.

Nearly 1.6 million tons or 22 percent of all U. S. coarse grain exports in the 7-month period went to the Netherlands. Nineteen percent (1.3 million tons) went to the United Kingdom. West Germany was the third largest market, taking 834,000 tons--an increase of approximately 54 percent from the previous season.

Exports to Japan amounted to only 199,000 tons, a drop of 59 percent from 491,000 tons a year earlier. The drop in exports to Japan was primarily in barley shipments. Japan's barley requirements were unusually small because of a record rice crop in 1959.

COARSE GRAINS: U.S. exports to principal countries, July-January 1958-59
and July-January 1959-60

Destination	Corn	Oats	Barley	Sorghums	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-January 1958-59:					
Austria	37,068:	--	6,750:	--	43,818
Belgium-Luxembourg ..	149,511:	47,851:	188,731:	281,640:	667,733
Denmark	15,062:	1,372:	39,368:	115,638:	171,440
France	41,099:	--	--	--	41,099
West Germany	108,411:	2,116:	351,188:	81,153:	542,868
Greece	45,522:	11,055:	1,524:	15,951:	74,052
Ireland	8,207:	--	6,096:	--	14,303
Italy	529:	--	35,458:	12:	35,999
Netherlands	487,576:	145,740:	392,512:	349,828:	1,375,656
Norway	17,414:	--	2,969:	43,647:	64,030
Poland	4,557:	--	117,230:	--	121,787
Spain	41,214:	--	48,903:	19,754:	109,871
Sweden	11,846:	3,044:	1,321:	15,495:	31,706
Switzerland	1,684:	4,959:	21,291:	1,524:	29,458
United Kingdom	1,043,694:	10,406:	3,772:	310,223:	1,368,095
Other Europe	119:	42:	2,610:	--	2,771
Egypt	--	--	--	--	--
Israel	20,545:	--	20,321:	110,578:	151,444
Japan	231,987:	--	258,717:	--	490,704
All others	673,998:	6,716:	179,862:	168,397:	1,028,973
World total	2,940,043:	233,301:	1,678,623:	1,513,840:	6,365,807
July-January 1959-60:					
Austria	150,427:	5,177:	27,445:	2,000:	185,049
Belgium-Luxembourg ..	226,780:	19,524:	100,650:	362,433:	709,387
Denmark	42,450:	13,267:	163,845:	142,393:	361,955
France	16,319:	--	--	--	16,319
West Germany	234,919:	104,806:	283,954:	210,133:	833,812
Greece	8,016:	--	12,203:	--	20,219
Ireland	36,548:	508:	13,792:	--	50,848
Italy	34,853:	3,785:	21,640:	80:	60,358
Netherlands	571,185:	236,211:	368,602:	410,480:	1,586,478
Norway	44,962:	--	3,353:	58,193:	106,508
Poland	47,874:	--	276,435:	51,135:	375,444
Spain	33,695:	--	64,837:	--	98,532
Sweden	14,677:	25,568:	1,856:	28,825:	70,926
Switzerland	4,443:	18,791:	28,654:	1,431:	53,319
United Kingdom	1,079,785:	2,032:	67,174:	194,774:	1,343,765
Other Europe	20,655:	167:	2,478:	2,031:	25,331
Egypt	49,943:	--	5,750:	9,893:	65,586
Israel	36,449:	17:	13,717:	105,195:	155,378
Japan	137,595:	--	61,485:	--	199,080
All others	492,215:	3,208:	125,582:	50,871:	671,876
World total	3,283,790:	433,061:	1,643,452:	1,629,867:	6,990,170

Source: Bureau of the Census.

INDIA'S WHEAT PROSPECTS DETERIORATE

Dryness over most of India, with acute drought in the northwest, is expected to reduce spring grain crops in 1960. Wheat and chickpeas, which are highly dependent on winter rains, have already been hurt by the drought which has prevailed over much of northern India during the past 2 months.

Though it is too early to make an accurate appraisal of the effects of the drought on spring crops, it is generally feared that yields will be well below the record yields in 1959. The unirrigated wheat areas of the Punjab appear to be the worst affected, but there are also some dry areas in the United Provinces.

AUSTRALIA REMOVES IMPORT
RESTRICTION ON HOPS

All licensing restrictions on hops imports into Australia were completely removed on February 22. Buyers can now obtain hops from any source in any quantity required, and U. S. exporting interests may be able to regain a share of the Australian market provided prices are competitive. Total import requirements for 1960 are estimated at 1.0 million pounds.

During the 5-year period following World War II, U. S. exports of hops to Australia averaged more than 664,000 pounds annually. None have been exported to that market since 1955-56; Australia's import requirements have been met mainly by the United Kingdom. This year's Australian crop is estimated at no more than 3.8 million pounds, compared with 4.1 million pounds last year. Total brewery requirements for 1960 are placed at 4.5 million pounds.

MOROCCO BUYS 25,000 TONS OF
RUSSIAN SOFT WHEAT

The Moroccan Government on February 19, invited bids to supply 25,000 metric tons of soft wheat. The Soviet Union made the best offer. The first shipment was scheduled to leave a Black Sea port on February 26. In recent years, Morocco has imported soft wheat from Italy and Argentina to cover its deficit of that type of wheat.

Morocco estimates its soft wheat deficit at 80,000 tons, and it is possible that further purchases will be made on the world market later this year. The government is also planning to divert to domestic consumption that portion of the hard wheat crop which has not already been sold on the French market.

FINLAND REDUCES IMPORT QUOTA
FOR RUSSIAN GRAIN

Finland will take less grain from the U. S. S. R. in 1960 than in 1959. Under a Finnish-Soviet agreement of December 22, 1959, covering exchange of goods during calendar 1960, Finland agreed to take 140,000 metric tons of Russian wheat, 50,000 tons of rye, and 35,000 tons of corn. Under the exchange agreement for 1959 Finland agreed to take 235,000 tons of wheat, 100,000 tons of rye, and 30,000 tons of corn.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL FEDERATION
RECOMMENDS WHEAT PROGRAM TO CABINET

Resolutions adopted at the annual meeting of Canada's Federation of Agriculture and presented to the Federal Cabinet in Ottawa include the following:

- (1) Continued support for the principle of deficiency payments on wheat, oats, and barley sold through the Canadian Wheat Board;
- (2) Adoption of a two-price system covering domestic sales of wheat for human consumption under which the domestic market price would be related to the level of the domestic economy and would not be governed by the export price;
- (3) Provision of adjustment payments from the Canadian Treasury to compensate for reduction in wheat prices caused by exchange premium on Canadian currency in relation to that of the United States;
- (4) Provision of payments from the Canadian Treasury to cover carrying charges on all grains in storage in public elevators;
- (5) Assumption by the Canadian Treasury of the cost of subsidizing Canadian flour exports, which is now being absorbed by wheat producers;
- (6) That the government follow up the initiative recently taken toward development of multilateral arrangements for utilizing surplus wheat production capacity to help needy people and assist in programs for under-developed countries;
- (7) That the government continue to direct its best efforts toward the establishment of a world food bank or similar international program for surplus disposal;
- (8) That gifts of wheat and flour to Colombo Plan countries be expanded by enlarging the quantities given and the number of countries to which gifts are to be made; and
- (9) That continued support be given to cooperative action by wheat exporting countries for expanding wheat utilization.

BULGARIAN-DANISH TRADE PROTOCOL
INCLUDES CORN AND RICE

A December 7, 1959, protocol to the Bulgarian-Danish trade agreement of May 9, 1947, provides for an exchange of goods in 1960 valued at 16 million kroner each way. (One Danish kroner is worth U. S. \$0.145.) Quotas for shipments of Bulgarian products to Denmark include 3.0 million kroner worth of corn and 0.3 million kroner worth of rice.

SUEZ CANAL SOYBEAN SHIPMENTS
IN DECEMBER SET POSTWAR RECORD

Northbound shipments of oil-bearing materials through the Suez Canal in December 1959 were triple the tonnage of November (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 22, 1960), and were 60 percent above the volume of December 1958. A postwar record quantity of soybeans in a single month, plus a volume of copra indicating recovery of shipments to levels of corresponding months in earlier years, account for the sharp rise.

OILSEEDS: Suez Canal, northbound shipments by kind, December
and October-December 1958 and 1959

Oilseed	December		October-December	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>short tons</u>	<u>short tons</u>	<u>short tons</u>	<u>short tons</u>
Soybeans 1/	79.4	173.1	125.6	257.9
Copra.....	43.0	87.1	141.0	194.0
Peanuts.....	15.4	6.6	37.5	25.4
Cottonseed.....	24.3	3.3	30.9	16.5
Flaxseed 2/	1.1	3.3	5.5	7.7
Others.....	17.6	22.0	50.7	65.0
Total.....	180.8	295.4	391.2	566.5

1/ To convert to bushels use 33.3 bushels per ton. 2/ To convert to bushels use 35.7 bushels per ton.

Suez Canal Authority, Monthly Bulletin (Cairo, Egypt).

Shipments of oil-bearing materials in October-December were also up sharply from a year earlier, again reflecting the large quantities of soybeans and copra shipped in December. While the volume of both peanuts and cottonseed was down somewhat, that of flaxseed and other oilseeds increased.

Soybean shipments in December were 5.8 million bushels, compared with only 0.5 million bushels in November and 2.6 million bushels in December 1958. October-December shipments reached 8.6 million bushels, more than double the 4.2 million shipped in the corresponding quarter of the 1958-59 marketing year.

NIGERIAN PEANUT OUTPUT DROPS SHARPLY

The 1959-60 commercial peanut crop in Nigeria is estimated at 450,000 long tons (shelled basis), down about 15 percent from the 533,362 tons grown in 1958-59.

Exportable supplies, at 470,000 tons, are down even more sharply than production, since stocks are thought to have been roughly 140,000 tons lower at the beginning of the current year (beginning October 1) than a year earlier. Thus, exportable supplies of peanuts this marketing year are around 225,000 below those of 1958-59.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA HAS SMALLER PEANUT CROP

Commercial purchases of peanuts in the 7 semi-independent republics of the former Federation of French West Africa are estimated at 863,000 short tons (unshelled) in the 1959-60 season. Production last season totaled 1,015,218 tons. Output, by republic, (1,000 short tons) is shown below.

Republic	1958-59	1959-60
Senegal.....	783	700
Niger.....	127	87
Soudan.....	93	63
Others.....	12	13
Total.....	1,015	863

The current estimate is somewhat below earlier indications (see Foreign Crops and Markets of December 21, 1959). Insufficient and irregular rainfall accounts for the sharp decline from the previous year and from the earlier estimates.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BUY TURKEYS

Effective February 24, the Canadian Government is authorized to purchase #1 turkeys, 10 to 20 pounds in weight, at the current support price of 20 cents per pound when such action is deemed necessary. The present support price was set on January 1, 1960, because of the great increase in turkey production. The support price through 1959 was 25 cents per pound.

Through February, receipts of turkeys at registered stations were about 11 percent behind receipts in the first 2 months of 1959. Since the first of the year, turkey eggs placed in incubators in registered hatcheries have been running 40 percent fewer for broiler weights and 25 percent fewer for mature weights.

FINNISH MILK OUTPUT ON UPTREND

Finland's 1959 milk production, estimated at 7.2 billion pounds, was about 4 percent above 1958 in spite of dry pastures during the summer, and smaller feed and forage crops during the fall.

Both cow numbers and yields were higher in 1959 than in 1958. Production in the latter half of the year tended to be maintained by increased use of both imported and domestic feeds. Farm utilization was lower and deliveries to factories and fluid milk distributors were 10 percent greater than in 1958. Most of the increase went into factory butter and cheese, which accounted for 77 percent of total deliveries.

Creamery butter output in 1959 was 181 million pounds, the largest ever reported, and 10 percent above the previous record in 1958. Cheese output, estimated at 60.6 million pounds, was about 22 percent above 1958, but below the record of 62 million pounds in 1956.

Domestic consumption of butter and cheese increased 9 percent and 7 percent, respectively, compared with 1958. Higher consumer income and, in the case of butter, the reduced price, accounted for the increased consumption.

In spite of increased butter and cheese consumption, unusual drought-induced demands abroad were also met. During 1959, Finland exported 47.2 million pounds of butter, compared with 45.3 million pounds in 1958. The principal markets were the United Kingdom (27.2 million pounds) and the U.S.S.R. (13.3 million pounds), the latter quantity in exchange for 68,000 tons of Russian wheat. Smaller quantities were purchased by Sweden (2.8 million pounds), West Germany (2.5 million pounds), and Switzerland (1.4 million pounds).

Finnish cheese was also in increased demand and at favorable prices during 1959, due to inadequate supplies in other producing countries affected by the drought. Total cheese exports last year, primarily Emmenthal and Edam types, were 20 percent above the record year of 1958. Finnish cheese was shipped to 37 countries, major markets being West Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, and Algeria.

Exports of dry milk also were considerably higher in 1959, amounting to 5.7 million pounds, compared with 3.4 million pounds in 1958. The principal destinations were Venezuela, the United Kingdom, and the USSR. Finnish exporters hope that the United Kingdom and the USSR will be regular purchasers of dry milk, output of which is expanding. Production in 1959, estimated at 6 million pounds, may increase to 10 million pounds within the next two years.

VENEZUELA RESTRICTS EGG IMPORTS

Venezuela recently announced that only Grade A eggs may be imported for direct consumption, and that date of grading must be stamped on all cases for all grades entering the country after March 15. Imported Grade C eggs will be used only for industrial purposes.

SMALL 1959 INDIAN WALNUT CROP
REDUCES EXPORTS THIS SEASON

The small 1959 Indian walnut harvest--now estimated at 8,000 short tons, compared with the normal crop of 11,500 tons in 1958--has reduced Indian export supplies. Indian exports during 1959-60 are forecast at 7,000 short tons, unshelled equivalent, in comparison with an estimated 10,200 tons exported the previous marketing year.

This season's exports through January 31 were estimated at 5,750 short tons, unshelled equivalent. Three countries accounted for virtually all these shipments. The United Kingdom--the leading market as usual--took 4,345 tons, and the United States and Australia took 630 and 513 tons, respectively. Shipments to Canada, West Germany, and the Netherlands were negligible.

During 1958-59, Indian walnut kernel exports were estimated at 8,100 tons, unshelled equivalent, and whole nut exports were estimated at 2,100 tons. The major export markets and their purchases (in unshelled equivalent) were as follows: United Kingdom, 4,630 tons; Canada, 2,245 tons; Australia, 1,363 tons; United States, 668 tons; West Germany, 475 tons; and the Netherlands, 345 tons.

Only limited walnut stocks were reported in India at the end of February 1960. Landed prices for Indian light walnut halves on the U. K. market in mid-March were quoted at 55 cents per pound. This represents about a 10-cent per-pound increase from the corresponding period last year.

CUBAN CUCUMBER AND
TOMATO EXPORTS LARGE

Cuba shipped 17,676,215 pounds of cucumbers to the United States in February. This brought total cucumber shipments to the United States so far this season to 38,087,765 pounds, compared with 29,089,060 pounds through February of the 1958-59 season. Shipments to the United States during all of the 1958-59 marketing year totaled 32,451,770.

Statistics on February exports of Cuban tomatoes to the United States are not available, but it appears that total tomato exports for the 1959-60 season may reach or slightly exceed last year's total. Prices of both tomatoes and cucumbers have been good because of freeze damage to these crops in Florida.

MIDDLE EAST DROUGHT SERIOUS

Continuing drought in Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Syria, and Israel has become serious.

Conditions in Jordan are perhaps the worst. Rainfall there through February had been only one-fourth that of the same time last year, which also was a drought year. Daytime use of water has been restricted in Amman, a practice not normally followed until August. Other emergency measures thus far include: a survey of the prospective grain harvest; purchase of pumps for drilled wells; rental of water tanks and trucks; and development of emergency water resources. The 1960 wheat crop is estimated at 28,000 metric tons, which will barely cover 1960 seed needs.

In Lebanon, rainfall in the agricultural Beka'a Valley has been less than half of normal, and much less than normal even along the coast. The water table in that area has dropped drastically, and the spring which has fed the town of Baalbek since Biblical times has dried up. This year's wheat crop has been severely damaged.

Syria has had 3 dry winters, and the city of Damascus is suffering from a water shortage. Farmers indicate that hunger may be expected unless sufficient rain comes soon in the southern part of the Syrian Region. Rainfall to date in Syria has been about 42 percent below normal. Heavy crop losses are expected.

In Iran, the first actual losses due to drought have been reported from the Khuzistan area, where poor range conditions have caused livestock deaths. Recent snowstorms throughout northern and central Iran have appreciably improved that area's general crop outlook, although cold weather accompanying the storms has hurt an estimated 75 percent of the almond and apricot crops and damaged other, later fruit crops to a lesser extent. Dry-farm grain crops of the south are already lost.

Israel is experiencing its third year of drought, and winter grain crops are expected to be considerably below normal.

PAKISTAN HAS RECORD RICE CROP

Pakistan will have a record rice harvest this season. The official second revised estimate places 1959-60 rice production at 9,808,000 tons (32,984 million pounds of rough rice). This is 27 percent larger than the corresponding 1958-59 estimate. These figures do not include the "summer" crop, which usually amounts to over a billion pounds (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 1, 1960).

The second revised estimate of rice acreage for 1959-60 is 23,129,000 acres, an increase of about 8 percent over the 21,479,000 acres reported in the corresponding estimate for the previous year. The increase, in both East and West Pakistan, is attributed to favorable weather and also to the withdrawal of land from jute cultivation.

MEXICAN COTTON ACREAGE LARGER

The area planted to cotton in Mexico in 1960 is estimated at 2,225,000 acres. This is an increase of 24 percent from acreage of 1,798,000 in 1959, and is near the annual average of 2,245,000 acres in the preceding 5 years.

Increased acreage this year is attributed largely to an easing in production credit following the heavy export sales of 1959-60 crop cotton on a strengthening market. Also, some wheat land was shifted to cotton in the West Coast areas of Sonora and Sinaloa following floods in November and December.

The sharpest increases in acreage are in the Matamoros and West Coast areas, with smaller increases in Mexicali, Laguna, Delicias, and Nuevo Laredo. Planting of the 1960-61 crop was nearing completion by early March, despite delays in some areas because of unfavorable weather. There was substantial replanting in the West Coast and Matamoros areas following heavy rains and floods.

Exports of 1,018,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during the first half (August-January) of this season were 9 percent below the 1,119,000 bales exported in the corresponding period a year earlier. Quantities shipped direct to principal destinations during August-January 1959-60, with comparable 1958-59 figures in parentheses, were: Japan 283,000 bales (192,000); United States 38,000 (33,000); West Germany 28,000 (51,000); the Netherlands 18,000 (15,000); Canada 10,000 (40,000); the United Kingdom 9,000 (14,000); Italy 8,000 (8,000); and France 8,000 (2,000).

In addition to direct exports, sizable quantities of Mexican cotton move through U. S. ports for transshipment. Transshipments during August-November 1959 totaled 411,000 bales, compared with 345,000 a year earlier (Foreign Crops and Markets, March 21, 1960).

Most of the cotton available for export in 1959-60 was sold in the early months of the season. Total exports from Mexico in 1959-60 will be smaller than the 1,809,000 bales shipped in 1958-59 because exportable supplies are smaller.

As a result of the stronger export demand and the smaller 1959-60 crop, stocks probably will be reduced from the high level of about 350,000 bales on August 1, 1959, to less than 100,000 on July 31, 1960. Domestic consumption of cotton has trended upward in recent months, and total consumption for the current season may slightly exceed the 485,000 bales used in 1958-59.

Forward export sales of cotton from the 1960-61 Mexican crop have been under-way for several weeks. Quotations for new-crop Mexican on the Liverpool market have remained about steady since the first offers made in January. On March 10, Mexican Strict Middling 1-1/16 inches cotton for August-September shipment was quoted at 29.52 U. S. cents a pound, c.i.f. Liverpool, and Middling 1-1/16 inches was quoted at 28.35 cents. Comparable quotations on January 14 were 29.44 and 28.27 cents, respectively.

PORTUGAL MAY BUY MORE COTTON

According to Portuguese trade sources, about 50,000 bales of cotton will have to be imported from sources other than the Portuguese provinces of Mozambique and Angola near the end of the current season if mills continue to operate at present levels.

Supplies from the 1959-60 Mozambique and Angola crops are expected to be exhausted by May or early June 1960, and cotton from the 1960-61 crops will not begin reaching Portuguese mills in volume until the fall of 1960.

In most years Mozambique and Angola supply over 80 percent of Portugal's raw cotton needs, while most of the remainder usually comes from the United States, Brazil, and Belgian Congo. During the first 3 months (August-October) of this season imports from the overseas provinces totaled 55,000 bales or 93 percent of total imports into Portugal, compared with 59,000 bales or 98 percent in the same period a year earlier.

COLOMBIA PLANS TO RESTRICT
COTTON PRODUCTION

The Government of Colombia has adopted a policy of restricting further expansion in cotton production.

This action follows rapid production increases in recent years--from an annual average of 116,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during 1954-58 to 250,000 in 1959-60--and is designed to prevent accumulation of burdensome surpluses.

Although there are plans for some cotton mill expansion this season, mill capacity will still be inadequate to absorb larger production. A surplus of an estimated 45,000 bales from the 1959-60 crop will move into export channels. These exports will require heavy withdrawals from the recently instituted cotton export subsidy fund (Foreign Crops and Markets, January 18, 1960), as the domestic price of cotton is well above world market prices.

On February 4, the Minister of Agriculture announced that the government would attempt to restrict production in 1960-61 (August-July) to the 1959-60 level of production, now estimated at 250,000 bales.

Measures to be used in effecting this program include the withholding of government assistance (production credit) from farmers planting cotton in areas considered to be unsuitable for cotton production and from farmers who undertake to increase acreage in present cotton-growing areas.

The government will continue to encourage improvement in the quality of cotton grown on existing farms.

CANADIAN COTTON CONSUMPTION UP IN FEBRUARY

Canadian cotton consumption in February, based on the number of bales opened by mills, was 28,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This was 8 percent above the 26,000 bales used in January, but 12 percent below the 32,000 consumed in February 1959.

Cotton consumption in the first 7 months (August-February) of the current season totaled 198,000 bales--down 7 percent from the 213,000 bales used in the corresponding 1958-59 period.

URUGUAY PUTS SOYBEAN OIL IN FREE MARKET CATEGORY

By a decree of March 15, the Government of Uruguay placed soybean oil in the free market category. The National Edible Oil Association (non-governmental) on March 17 invited bids to supply 10,000 metric tons (11,000 short tons) of edible soybean oil.

ANTARCTIC SPERM OIL OUTPUT DOWN SHARPLY

Sperm whaling prior to the regular 1959-60 Antarctic season yielded 18,414 short tons of oil, excluding production of the Soviet Union for which no data are available. Comparable production last season was 34,563 tons, nearly twice as much.

Whaling expeditions normally arrive in the Antarctic prior to the opening of the regular season set by the International Whaling Convention and conduct sperm whaling operations until the regular season opens. Sperm whaling, not controlled by the Convention, virtually ceases when the season opens. Production by country for the current and previous seasons follow (in short tons):

Country	1958-59	1959-60
Norway (8 expeditions, 9 last season).....	10,341	5,842
Japan (6 expeditions).....	17,889	11,480
United Kingdom (3 expeditions).....	4,761	1,092
Netherlands (1 expedition).....	1,571	0
Total.....	34,562	18,414

Sperm oil production in the Antarctic usually accounts for 40 to 50 percent of the annual world outturn and most of the variation in total world production. Sperm oil output outside the Antarctic has increased slightly in recent years.

BURMA HAS LARGER OILSEED PRODUCTION

Burma's 1959-60 peanut crop is expected to be only slightly above last year's outturn, but sesame seed production has risen 30 percent. These are the only oilseeds grown on a major scale in Burma.

Two crops of peanuts are grown in Burma--a "rain crop" harvested in September-October and a "cold-season crop" harvested in March-April of the following year. Acreage in 1959-60 was up about 5 percent from the year before, but the average yield of the rain crop was down and the yield of the crop now being harvested is also lower than last year. However, total production should be up around 2 percent.

According to the third official estimate, 1959-60 peanut production is 323,000 short tons from 1,052,000 acres sown. Last season's output (final official estimate) was 318,000 short tons from 1,004,000 acres.

A sizable increase in acreage and yields accounts for the sharp upturn in production of sesame seed this season. According to the third official estimate, 1959-60 production of sesame seed is 75,000 short tons from 1,544,000 acres sown. Production in 1958-59 (final official estimate) was 58,000 short tons from 1,410,000 acres sown.

CANADIANS PLAN SHARP INCREASE IN OILSEED ACREAGE

Canadian farmers' intentions as of March 1 are to expand flaxseed and rapeseed acreage sharply in 1960 and to increase soybean acreage slightly, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Prospective flaxseed acreage this year indicates an increase of one-fifth from 1959 plantings, and 18 percent from the 1954-58 average of 2.4 million acres. Increases are indicated for each of the 4 western provinces, but no change is indicated for Ontario.

Acreage sown to rapeseed, grown mainly in the Prairie Provinces, will increase 161 percent from 1959 if intentions are confirmed. Moreover, indicated acreage is 60 percent above the 1954-58 average of 354,320 acres. In the past, a large part of this crop has been grown on a contract basis, and the ability to obtain contracts, as well as the price offered by contracting firms, may influence farmers' plans considerably.

Soybean acreage may increase about 3 percent from 1959 because of a prospective increase in Ontario where virtually all of the acreage is concentrated. Indicated plantings are 5 percent larger than the 1954-58 average of 246,000 acres.

OILSEEDS: Canada, acreage intentions as of March 1, 1960,
compared with estimated acreage, annual 1956-59

Oilseed acreage	Seeded acreage				Intended acreage	
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1960 as percent of 1959
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Flaxseed.....	3,040,800	3,485,600	2,622,700	2,388,700	2,861,500	120
Rapeseed <u>1/</u>	351,900	617,500	626,000	217,800	568,200	261
Soybeans.....	243,200	256,000	263,000	251,000	2/258,000	103
<u>1/</u> Prairie Provinces only. <u>2/</u> Ontario only; estimate for Manitoba not available.						

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

AGRICULTURE STRESSED IN YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR 1960

The Yugoslav Federal Social Plan for 1960 envisages an increase of 1.3 percent over 1959 in agricultural production. This is 13 percent higher than the goal for 1961 in the basic 5-year (1957-61) Social Plan of Economic Development. (Annual plans are made to aid in realizing the basic plan.)

The largest agricultural increase is planned for livestock, because of excellent corn and other fodder crops in 1959. During 1960, the share of livestock in total production will increase in relation to crop output. Significant increases over 1959 are expected in production of meat (22 percent), eggs (15 percent), and milk (11 percent).

Other increases expected are in sugar beets (7 percent) and sunflower seed (7 percent). No increase is foreseen in breadgrains (wheat and rye) and corn, production of which was exceptionally high in 1959. No large increases are anticipated in fruit, except grapes, because of the excellent crops in recent years. However, higher production will be emphasized in future years. Processing of dried prunes in 1960 is expected to rise 14 percent over 1959.

Based on carryover stocks and the planned increase in agricultural production, the value of exports of raw or unprocessed agricultural products (corn, livestock and meat, vegetables, and fruit) is expected to be up 57 percent from 1959.

An increase in imports also is indicated. This will be chiefly in cotton and high-quality livestock. Large quantities of concentrates for mixed feed also will be imported to insure proper feeding of livestock. Imports of food will decrease, mainly because the record crops of 1959 cover domestic needs for wheat and lard, two of the chief agricultural imports during postwar years.

Official Business

DENMARK RAISES MIXING RATE FOR
HOMEGROWN WHEAT IN MILLING

Effective February 15, 1960, the Danish mixing rate for homegrown wheat in flour milling was raised to 90 percent. The rate of imported wheat used in milling is thus reduced to 10 percent. Previously, only 75 percent homegrown wheat was required in flour. The mixing rate for rye remains at 100 percent for the domestic product.

The change for wheat is attributed to the fact that the 1959 crops of both wheat and rye, which were of excellent quality, will cover virtually all domestic milling requirements. Also, sales of homegrown wheat to the government under price supports were larger than expected. The increased wheat-mixing rate will help in disposing of these stocks. Denmark is currently importing large quantities of U. S. grain sorghums, barley, corn, and oats.